

111
BOROUGH OF NEWBURY
RURAL DISTRICTS OF BRADFIELD, NEWBURY
AND HUNGERFORD

ANNUAL
REPORT



of

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
(including the reports of the
Public Health Inspectors)

for the year

1969

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and duty of presenting to you my Annual Report for 1969.

Again the district has received a sizeable increase in population. Over 2,000 more people lived in the area than during the previous year.

This increase of almost 3% has been spread unequally among the four districts, Newbury Rural having taken the greatest share, both absolutely and relatively. The population increase in its area is about 5½%, almost double the figure for the area as a whole, and almost six times the rate at which the Borough population has enlarged.

As can be seen from the table on population changes, by far the greater part of this addition to the population is by people's moving into the area. In general terms most of these additional residents are added to existing corners of urban development within nominally rural areas.

This mixing of the urban mentality with a rural environment creates problems for the department and accounts for a significant part of the work of the Public Health Inspectors. As instances of the type of problem which can arise I would mention the noises and smells which are an inevitable accompaniment of some farming processes. Nevertheless these are often not acceptable to the urban mentality. I am not in any sense being opprobrious about the new rural residents, nor am I for one instant suggesting that farmers or any other rural residents are wilfully creating nuisances, nor that they are beyond the normal processes for dealing with nuisances. I am merely pointing out that some of the conditions which exist in towns cannot be duplicated in the country and that a difference from the accustomed pattern of living does not automatically mean that the new environment is wrong. Frequently a failure to realise this involves your staff as arbitrators in betimes highly acrimonious disputes.

Another example of an inconvenience of rural life is the difficulty which recurrently arises from septic tanks. It is pleasing to note that within the past year the number of properties served by main drainage has again increased, although in a fairly sparsely populated, predominantly rural area, such as this, there is absolutely no prospect of all the houses ever being on main drainage. Nevertheless, significant steps are being taken to serve as many of the villages and hamlets as possible.

It is, however, sad to note the difficulties which still beset attempts to increase the scope of main drainage, and not all the schemes put forward for financial approval by the Government were agreed to last year. It should not, in my view, and I have said this in an Annual Report before, be necessary to quote health reasons for the installation of main drainage. This is, in my view, one of the services, and almost normal courtesies of every day life which any resident in a reasonably built-up part of the country should be entitled to expect.

Public health consists of at times seeing that something or other happens, but at other times seeing that something or other does not happen. Unfortunately there are occasions when one must watch something not happening while fervently wishing that it would.

One glaring example of such a lack of action is afforded by the failure of the County Council to press for Fluoridation of water supplies. It is clearly not within the scope of this preamble to go into any detail of the pros and cons of Fluoridation for these have been aired at considerable length through every communication medium. Tragically, the cons with their dramatic half truths and prevarications have had the better press. Nevertheless, there is no conceivable reason to change the opinion and advice which I have given individually to all four Councils in the past, and with which each of the four Councils has separately expressed its agreement, that Fluoridation in the amount recommended is an effective and safe method of reducing dental decay.

The passage of every year produces more evidence on both the efficacy and safety of this measure, and I can but deplore the County Council's lack of forthright action.

I have already mentioned one of the activities of the Public Health Inspectors and myself which occupies a significant part of our time, and I would like to take this opportunity of mentioning another. Fortunately this has as yet to produce any positive results, but it is nevertheless demanding of time. I am referring to the spate of investigations which we have to carry out every late Summer and early Autumn among those who go abroad for their holidays. Each year we can expect and virtually predict that we shall have reports of holidaymakers who have been in contact with typhoid or paratyphoid fevers following trips in the parts of the world where these diseases are endemic. It is notable and noticeable that few of these travellers bother to have themselves immunised against these diseases before the holiday begins. The only time when

there is a significant exception to this rule is when a few cases occur early in the holiday season. The public reads of these and is slightly panicked thereby. The office (and I assume the general practitioners also) become inundated with enquiries. This, however, is too late, and if through this Report I can draw attention to the fact that this immunisation should be started not later than the Spring of the year in which the holiday is to be taken, then it will have served some useful part in the programme of health education, which is much of the basis of public health today.

On the matter of seeing that things should not happen, it is pleasing to note that, as has been the case for many years past, no case of either Poliomyelitis or Diphtheria has been notified in any part of the district. This is, of course, due to the highly effective immunisation procedure available against both of these diseases. It must be admitted in this context that although immunisation against Typhoid or Paratyphoid has not quite the same efficiency as the immunisation procedures which are carried out routinely in infancy, it is nevertheless foolhardy not to take advantage of the protection which can be given. Of the cases of Typhoid and Paratyphoid occurring in this country (given the exception of an occasional localised outbreak) the vast majority occur in unimmunised people who have contracted the disease while on holiday in the endemic areas.

Of the notifiable infectious diseases none merits mention, although of the infectious diseases as a whole one achieved considerable fame towards the end of the year. This disease was Influenza. The true proportions of this epidemic are slightly obscure as many of the cases involved probably did not disclose their true identity, while equally among the self diagnosed cases many were probably not in fact the true disease. Nevertheless the sum total of sickness, distress and inconvenience was vast. Immunisation is, of course, available against this disease, but I am not convinced of its overall efficacy. The Influenza virus can change its characteristics rapidly and the amount of cross immunity from one year's strain to the next is questionable. The greatest amount of protection probably comes from application of the basic principles of hygiene, in the avoidance of the infected persons and avoidance of articles contaminated by them. It is perhaps almost an affront to put this in writing, but the heroic individual who carries on even though suffering from the disease is no true hero and does nothing but harm to his colleagues.

I write above that health education is one of the strengths and backbones of current public health practice, but the table of causes of death points to two conditions where clearly health education has, to date, not produced its desired effect. I refer to the deaths from cancer of the lung, a disease due almost entirely to our wilful avoidance of the need to stop smoking cigarettes, and to the number of accidents, particularly the ones not involving motor vehicles. All of us in public health spend some of our time in health education on the prevention of accidents in the home, whether through such channels as formal talks to Women's Institutes, Youth Clubs, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Schemes or through the day to day contact that is part of the normal routine work of the public health inspectors, district nurses, health visitors and the many others whose duties take them into the home. Of the totals of accidents in the home noted in this Report over half are in the over 65 year olds. This is, of course, only a reflection of the national figures, and clearly the over 65 year olds are the ones who since they are through age alone isolated from organised groups can be reached only through day to day personal contact. It is being facile to suggest that we can ever make much impression on people in this age group and perhaps the real hope is that in years to come the health education given to the young will bear fruit when they themselves reach the over 65 age group. This long term attitude is part almost of the philosophy of public health and the very existence of lack of drama to point out in this Report is illustrative of the long term effect of the efforts of generations of my predecessors.

I have already mentioned some of my colleagues in the public health service whose advice and help has been invaluable during the year. To them and to my fellow officers I would express my thanks and to the Committee I would express my gratitude for their assistance, advice and tolerance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT HANDY

Medical Officer of Health

SOUTH BERKS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

1969 – 1970

LIST OF MEMBERS

Newbury Borough

Mrs. E. DYSON

L.L. HALL, Esq.

M.W. PAINE, Esq., M.B.E.

Bradfield R.D.

Mrs. N.G. PILKINGTON

A.H.R. STEBBING, Esq.

A.H. WYATT, Esq.

Newbury R.D.

Mrs. P. DAVIES

BRIGADIER W.J. COLYER

G.H. PEARCE, Esq.

Hungerford R.D.

Mrs. E.M. GILLMAN

D.J. BRADY, Esq.

Berks County Council

HON. Mrs. D.R. MACLAY

A. ARBUTHNOTT, Esq., M.B.E., E.D.

MAJOR H. FAIRFAX HARVEY, M.B.E., M.C.

Clerk: L. SOUTHERN, Esq., LL.B., Municipal Buildings, Newbury.

(Telephone 4000)

**BOROUGH OF NEWBURY, RURAL DISTRICTS OF
BRADFIELD, NEWBURY AND HUNGERFORD**

Medical Officer of Health
R. HANDY, M.B., D.P.H.
Public Health Office, Greenham House, Newbury
Telephone: Newbury 1144

Newbury Borough

G.J. WICKENS, M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector
16 Market Place, Newbury
(Telephone 4000)
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors Board.
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

K.H. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I.
Additional Public Health Inspector
Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.
Certificate of Sanitary Science as applied to
Building and Public Works.

J. HAYWARD, M.A.P.H.I., A.M.R.S.H.
Additional Public Health Inspector
Public Health Inspectors Diploma of the Public
Health Inspectors Education Board.
Certificate of Royal Society of Health for the
Inspection of Meat and other Food.
Smoke Inspectors Diploma.

Bradfield R.D.

G. ROSSER, M.A.P.H.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector
26 Bath Road, Reading
(Telephone 55581)
Certificate of the Public Health Inspectors'
Education Board.
Certificate of the Royal Society of Health as
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

E.F. ALEXANDER, M.A.P.H.I.
Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector
Certificate of the Public Health Inspectors'
Examination Board.

R.E. JONES

Certificate of the Public Health Inspectors'
Examination Board.

Certificate of Royal Society of Health for
Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

Newbury R.D.

C.J. COOKE, M.A.P.H.I.

Chief Public Health Inspector
Phoenix House, Bartholomew Street, Newbury
(Telephone 2400)

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as
Sanitary Inspector.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as
Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

S. BURGESS, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector
Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and
Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Board.

Hungerford R.D.

J.E. EDWARDS, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector
The Priory, Hungerford,
(Telephone 2726)

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as
Sanitary Inspector.

GENERAL STATISTICS

District	Area in Acres (Land and Inland Water)	Estimated Population	Persons per Acre
Newbury Borough	2,612	22,170	8.5
Bradfield Rural	53,008	38,470	0.7
Newbury Rural	41,660	24,590	0.6
Hungerford Rural	44,817	10,650	0.2
Joint Districts	142,097	95,880	0.7

Area	Births	Deaths	Population Change (+ or -)	Births Minus Deaths
Newbury Borough	383	256	+210	127
Bradfield R.D.	776	289	+790	487
Newbury R.D.	413	241	+1,380	172
Hungerford R.D.	186	128	+160	58
Joint Districts	1,758	914	+2,540	844

AREA COMPARABILITY FACTORS

			Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Newbury Rural	Hungerford Rural
Births	...	...	1.02	0.93	0.98	1.09
Deaths	...	...	0.86	1.35	0.99	0.78

VITAL STATISTICS

Births and Deaths

The following table shows the totals of births and deaths and the rates per thousand appropriate population. The corresponding figures for 1968 are in brackets.

District	Number of Live Births	Live Births Rate	Death Rate	Infant Deaths per 1,000 live Births
Newbury Borough	383 (415)	17.6 (19.2)	9.9 (10.8)	18 (15)
Bradfield Rural	776 (775)	18.8 (19.2)	10.1 (9.7)	13 (13)
Newbury Rural	413 (440)	16.5 (17.7)	9.7 (8.2)	19 (16)
Hungerford Rural	186 (189)	19.1 (19.6)	9.4 (8.1)	5 (11)
Joint Districts	1,758 (1,817)	18.4 (19.5)	9.5 (9.6)	15 (13.8)

	Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Newbury Rural	Hungerford Rural	Joint Districts
Illegitimate live births per cent total live births	6.5 (7.5)	4.5 (4.6)	5.3 (6.8)	9.1 (4.8)	5.6 (5.8)

District	Still-births	Total live and still-births	Still birth rate	Neo-natal death rate
Newbury Borough	3 (1)	386 (414)	8 (2)	16 (12.1)
Bradfield Rural	8 (4)	784 (779)	10 (5)	9 (10.3)
Newbury Rural	4 (3)	417 (443)	10 (7)	17 (4.5)
Hungerford Rural	2 (1)	188 (190)	11 (5)	— (-)
Joint Districts	17 (9)	1,775 (1,826)	10 (4.9)	11 (8.3)

District	Early Neo-natal death rate	Peri-natal death rate
Newbury Borough	10 (7.3)	18 (10)
Bradfield Rural	9 (7.7)	19 (13)
Newbury Rural	15 (4.5)	24 (11)
Hungerford Rural	— (-)	11 (5)
Joint Districts	10 (6.1)	19 (10.9)

District	Total Infant Deaths	Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age	Legitimate Infant death rate	Illegitimate Infant death rate
Newbury District	7 (6)	6 (5)	17 (15.7)	40 (-)
Bradfield Rural	10 (10)	7 (8)	13 (13.6)	— (-)
Newbury Rural	8 (7)	7 (2)	18 (17.1)	45 (-)
Hungerford Rural	1 (2)	— (-)	6 (11.1)	— (-)
Joint Districts	26 (25)	20 (15)	14 (14.6)	20 (-)

CAUSES OF DEATH

(Figures for 1969 are in brackets)

DEATHS:	Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Newbury Rural	Hunger- ford Rural	Total (all areas)
Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	1	—	—	1
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	—	—	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	2	1	1	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	5	5	3	17
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	6	7	11	2	26
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	19	8	7	47
Malignant neoplasm, larynx	3	1	—	—	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	5	3	4	15
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2	1	2	1	6
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	—	1	5	—	6
Leukaemia	—	1	2	—	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	13	10	6	46
Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	1	—	—	—	1
Diabetes	2	2	2	2	8
Avitaminoses and other nutritional deficiency	—	—	—	—	—
Other endocrine etc. diseases	—	2	3	—	5
Anaemias	—	—	—	2	2
Other diseases of blood etc.	—	—	—	1	1
Mental disorders	—	—	—	2	2
Meningitis	1	—	—	—	1
Other diseases of nervous system and sense organs	—	1	2	2	5
Active rheumatic heart disease	—	—	—	—	—
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	2	3	1	2	8
Hypertensive disease	9	5	4	4	22
Ischaemic heart disease	57	68	43	23	191
Other forms of heart disease	18	11	22	7	58
Cerebrovascular disease	42	36	32	17	127
Other diseases of the circulatory system	8	15	12	8	43
Influenza	2	1	2	—	5
Pneumonia	34	24	34	10	102
Bronchitis, emphysema	9	14	8	10	41
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1	1	—	2	4
Peptic ulcer	—	4	2	—	6

Appendicitis	—	—	—	1	1
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	1	—	1	1	3
Cirrhosis of the liver	—	2	1	1	4
Other diseases of the digestive system	2	3	1	2	8
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	—	—	1
Other diseases of the genito-urinary system	3	5	1	2	11
Diseases of the musculo- skeletal system and connective tissue	—	2	1	1	4
Congenital anomalies	3	5	2	—	10
Birth injury, difficult labour and other anoxic and hypoxic conditions	2	2	1	—	5
Other causes of perinatal mortality	2	3	3	—	8
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	1	3	1	—	5
Motor vehicle accidents	2	8	3	2	15
All other accidents	2	10	8	—	20
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	4	1	1	7
All other external causes	—	—	2	1	3
Total ... ..	..256	289	241	128	914

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease notified in each district during 1969:

Disease	Newbury Borough	Bradfield Rural	Hunger- ford Rural	Newbury Rural	Total All Areas
Anthrax	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Meningitis	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	4	—	5	12
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	1	—	—	1
Infective Hepatitis	5	5	2	—	12
Leprosy	—	—	—	—	—
Leptospirosis	—	—	—	—	—

Malaria	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	6	93	15	29	143
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	1	3	2	—	6
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Tetanus	—	1	—	—	1
Tuberculosis	5	8	3	1	17
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	4	1	—	—	5
Yellow Fever	—	—	—	—	—

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

These services are under the control of the County Health Department under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946

Newbury Health Sub-Committee is responsible for diphtheria and whooping cough prophylaxis within the Borough of Newbury.

Immunisation is performed at Child Welfare Centres and by the general practitioners, who are also in the main responsible for smallpox vaccination.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION, 1969

Number of Children Immunised against Diphtheria

(Figures for 1968 in brackets)

District	Under 1	Over 1 but Under 5	5—15	Total
Newbury Borough:				
Primary	78(217)	65(86)	12(19)	155(322)
Booster	— (-)	205(348)	265(326)	470(674)
Bradfield Rural:				
Primary	153(545)	120(283)	26(101)	299(929)
Booster	311(-)	257(586)	583(652)	1151(1238)
Newbury Rural				
Primary	90(261)	87(137)	7(49)	184(447)
Booster	— (-)	288(323)	250(245)	538(568)
Hungerford Rural:				
Primary	37(107)	34(45)	4(20)	75(172)
Booster	— (-)	109(355)	126(120)	235(475)

The following table shows the total number of Primary Diphtheria Immunisation carried out in the four areas during the last ten years.

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
Newbury Borougl										
Under 5	282	341	328	283	447	373	446	332	303	143
5–15	2	30	5	3	6	27	7	18	19	12
Bradfield Rural:										
Under 5	303	423	462	503	660	703	764	970	828	273
5--15	21	10	9	8	18	18	19	49	101	26
Newbury Rural:										
Under 5	250	315	228	265	394	338	410	373	398	177
5–15	–	5	2	2	4	4	13	16	49	7
Hungerford Rural:										
Under 5	93	153	104	96	152	132	168	134	152	71
5–15	–	2	3	2	7	–	4	–	20	4
Total	951	1279	1141	1162	1688	1595	1831	1892	1870	713

SMALLPOX VACCINATION, 1969

(Figures for 1968 in brackets)

District	Under 1	Over 1 but Under 5	5–15	Total
Newbury Borough:				
Primary:	– (1)	209 (239)	8 (27)	217 (267)
Re-Vaccination:	– (-)	10 (13)	51 (119)	61 (132)
Bradfield Rural:				
Primary:	7 (22)	419 (601)	30 (63)	456 (686)
Re-Vaccination:	– (2)	18 (6)	173 (244)	191 (252)
Newbury Rural:				
Primary	4 (3)	202 (331)	20 (17)	226 (351)
Re-Vaccination	– (-)	4 (12)	95 (118)	99 (130)
Hungerford Rural:				
Primary	– (1)	73 (114)	2 (18)	75 (133)
Re-Vaccination	– (-)	4 (15)	32 (19)	36 (34)
Total	11 (29)	939 (1331)	411(625)	1361 (1985)

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS, 1969 -

Age Periods	Newbury Borough		Bradfield Rural		Newbury Rural		Hungerford Rural	
	Resp.	Non. Resp.	Resp.	Non. Resp.	Resp.	Non. Resp.	Resp.	Non. Resp.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
45 — 55	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Totals	5	—	6	2	1	—	3	—

The following table shows the number of new cases of tuberculosis (respiratory and non-respiratory) which have occurred in the four areas during the last ten years.

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Totals
1960	24	1	25
1961	30	2	32
1962	17	1	18
1963	26	1	27
1964	23	2	25
1965	24	9	33
1966	11	2	13
1967	20	1	21
1968	9	1	10
1969	15	2	17

NEWBURY BOROUGH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the year

1969

STAFF

Chief Public Health Inspector

G. J. WICKENS, M.A.P.H.I.

Qualifications:—

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Food.

Additional Public Health Inspector K. H. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I.

Qualifications:—

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors Joint Board as Sanitary Inspector.

Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and Other Food.

Certificate of Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

Additional Public Health Inspector J. HAYWARD, M.A.P.H.I.,

A.M.R.S.H.

Qualifications:—

Public Health Inspectors Diploma of the Public Health Inspectors Education Board.

Certificate of Royal Society of Health for the Inspection of Meat and Other Food.

Smoke Inspectors Diploma issued by the Royal Society of Health.

Shorthand-Typist

Miss E. M. Ferguson

WATER SUPPLIES

The water supply to the area has been satisfactory during the year, and the only complaints have been concerning the low pressure obtained at separate properties. This low pressure can be accounted for by the fact that the houses are on a joint supply and the supply pipe is not sufficient for the additional demands made when extra fittings are connected. All the houses within the Borough are supplied from the mains and in each instance the supplies are direct to the houses.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal in the district are satisfactory and the extension of the sewers have allowed a few isolated houses to be connected to the main drainage system. No serious problems were experienced with any properties on septic tank drainage.

HOUSING

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Return for year 1969

A.1. HOUSES DEMOLISHED

	Houses demolished	Displaced during year Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas			
(Housing Act, 1957)			
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation	—	—	—
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.,	—	—	—
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2), Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
Not in Clearance Areas			
(4) As a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17(1), Housing Act, 1957	4	2	1
(5) Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by M.O.H.	—	—	—
(6) Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts.	—	—	—
(7) Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders	—	—	—
A.2. Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed.	—	—	—

B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED

(8)	Under Sections 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1), Housing Act, 1957	2	2	2
(9)	Under Sections 17(3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—
(10)	Parts of buildings closed under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957	—	—	—

C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

	By Owner	By Local Authority
(11)	After informal action by local authority	11
(12)	After formal notice under	
	(a) Public Health Acts	12 —
	(b) Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957	— —
(13)	Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	—

D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957)

	Number of Houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings contained in column (1) (2)
(14)	Retained for temporary accommodation	—
	(a) Under Section 48	—
	(b) Under Section 17(2)	—
	(c) Under Section 46	—
(15)	Licensed for temporary accommodation under Section 34 or 35	—

E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT

	Number of Houses (1)	Number of occupants of houses in column (1) (2)
(16)	Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders purchased in the year 1969.	—

HOUSING ACTS, 1957 – 1969

The application of the Housing Act, 1969, from August is likely to encourage more householders to take advantage of the Improvement Grants. There is still reluctance, however, for older tenants to be interested in having increased amenities at their houses and prefer to continue with existing conditions and the lower rents.

The future of the houses at Camp Close was still not settled at the end of the year. The Ministry of Housing and Local Government had called for a detailed survey to be undertaken of the property earlier in the year. These houses were inspected in great detail and the houses could not be classed as unfit for human habitation and not capable of being rendered fit at a reasonable cost. Although the poor design and layout of the estate does give one doubts as to whether a satisfactory arrangement will ever be obtained with the existing design and groups of houses. Many of the problems and complaints start from the troubles caused by the central area which is treated as nothing more than a dumping ground.

A further survey was also undertaken of the prefabricated houses at Western End and little signs of deterioration were noted from the time of the inspection made three years ago, and continuance in use of these houses for another two years should present no problems.

FOOD SUPPLIES

Milk and Dairies

The failing samples of milk on the Methylene Blue Test were due to a change in staff at the Creamery, and once the fault had been discovered the Dairy were very quick to rectify the error.

Bacteriological examination of milk:—

Samples procured for	Type of Milk	Total samples taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Remarks
1 Methylene Blue Test	T.T. Past	15 46	15 42	— 4	— —
2 Phosphatase Test	Past	52	52	—	—
3 Turbidity Test	Sterilized	4	4	—	—
4 Colony Count Test	U.H.T.	1	1	—	—

Thirty-two series of bottles taken from the washer at the only pasteurising plant in the district were submitted to examination, and the Bacteriologist's report showed that they were satisfactory.

Manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream:

One hundred and six samples of ice-cream were examined and were placed in the following grades:

Grade I	93
Grade II	9
Grade III	4
Grade IV	—

The machines in which ice-cream powder is reconstituted still need careful surveillance as the samples other than in grade I were obtained from these machines. The cause of the lower grades could be attributed to mistakes in the routine cleaning of the plant.

**Classification of Food Premises within the jurisdiction of the
Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960**

Butchers	...	...	...	...	17
General Stores	...	...	...	...	7
Hotels and other licensed premises				...	46
Grocers	...	...	...	...	36
Confectioners		...	...	...	13
Bakers	...	...	...	...	10
Catering	...	...	...	...	16
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	10
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	2
Dairies	...	...	...	...	1
Supermarkets		...	...	...	9
Ice-Cream Manufacturers			...	...	1

168

The number of food premises shows a slight reduction during the year and the trend is continuing of sales taking place in supermarkets at the expense of the private traders.

Inspection of meat and other foodstuffs in shops, etc.:

**WEIGHTS OF CANNED AND OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED
AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

Canned Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	80 lbs.
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..			—
Canned food other than meat		..	..	..	..	2 tons.	10 cwts.			0 lbs.
Other food	..	..	..	..	..	..	5 cwts.			80 lbs.
Total weight condemned	..	..	..	..	..	2 tons.	16 cwts.			48 lbs.

Meat Inspection:

WEIGHTS OF CONDEMNED MEAT AND OFFAL

Classification							Tons	cwt.	lbs.
(1)	At slaughterhouse	..	..	..	..	..	23	4	0
(2)	On retailers' premises:-								
	(a) Home killed	..	..	..	..	..	—	19	0
	(b) Imported	..	..	..	..	..	—	—	—
(3)	Total Weight	..	..	..	..	..	24	3	0

The throughput at the Board Abattoir during 1969 reached a record figure for the premises since they opened. This increased throughput was mainly due to another wholesaler using the premises temporarily. Unfortunately from the Board's financial position the wholesaler moved to his own premises at the beginning of November, and the throughput suffered a considerable drop.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
Number Slaughtered	2,105	813	348	3,776	50,698	57,740
Number Inspected	2,105	813	348	3,776	50,698	57,740
All diseases except						
Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	9	19	16	90	135
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	837	433	9	349	5,434	7,062
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuber- culosis	39.8	54.3	8.0	10.8	9.6	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	4	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	79	79
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	0.16	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	1	—	—	—	6
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	5	1	—	—	—	6
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES, WORKPLACES, SHOPS, ETC.

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	51	25	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	143	139	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	194	164	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
		Remedied (3)	Notified To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	(6)
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	—	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	Nil
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	2	—	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	Nil
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	Nil
TOTAL	3	4	—	1	Nil

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL AND DISINFECTION

Rodent Control:

The number of agricultural, horticultural and business properties which were under contract to the Joint Rodent Control Committee at the end of 1969 were:—

Newbury Borough	9
Newbury Rural District	31
Hungerford Rural District . . .	44
a total of	84

The treatment of rat infestations has continued satisfactorily and todate no warfarin resistant rats have been encountered in the area of the Joint Committee. This could be a problem of the future as warfarin resistant rats have been reported in not too distant areas.

Wasps' Nests:

During 1969 wasps' nests on domestic and business premises were destroyed by the rodent operators during the year as follows:—

Newbury Borough	37
Newbury Rural District	30
Hungerford Rural District . . .	16

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949
Return of work by Rodent Operators

TYPE OF PROPERTY					
	Local Authority	Dwelling houses	Agri- cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial	Total
1. Total number of proper- ties in Local Authority's district	21	7,432	14	1,726	9,193
2. Number of properties (a) inspected by Local Authority during 1969 as a result of, (b)	6	235	1	49	291
(a) notification, or (b) otherwise	11	2	4	6	23
3. Number of properties MAJOR (under 2) found to be infested by rats MINOR	16	216	5	35	272
4. Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice	1	21	—	20	42
5. Number of infested pro- perties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority	17	237	5	55	314
6. Number of notices served under Section 4					
(1) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural works (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—	—
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	—	—	—	—	—
8. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
9. Number of 'block' control scheme carried out	3				

OFFICES, SHOPS, AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This legislation is now better understood by the owners of offices, shops and other premises and the implications of the legislation are being implemented with very few difficulties.

TABLE A – Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises (1)	No. of premises registered during the year (2)	Total No. of registered premises at end of year (3)	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year (4)
Offices	12	132	95
Retail Shops	9	216	199
Wholesale shops, warehouses	4	15	15
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	1	32	32
Fuel storage depots	—	2	2
TOTALS	26	397	343

TABLE B – Number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors
to Registered Premises
794

TABLE C – Analysis of persons employed in
Registered Premises by Workplace

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed (2)
Offices	1,411
Retail Shops	1,558
Wholesale departments, warehouses	209
Catering establishments open to public	228
Canteens	16
Fuel storage depots	7
Total	3,429
Total males	1,353
females	2,076

TABLE D – Exemptions

Class of Premises (1)	Space (Sec.5(2))	Temperature (Sec.6)	Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.9)	Washing Facilities (sec.10)
Offices	—	—	—	—
Retail Shops	—	—	—	—
Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	—	—	—
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	—	—	—
Fuel Storage depots	—	—	—	—

TABLE E – Prosecutions

Prosecutions instituted of which the hearing was completed in the year	Nil
Number of complaints (or summary applications) made under Section 22	Nil
Number of interim orders granted	Nil

BRADFIELD RURAL DISTRICT

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES

Mains water supply

Most parishes within the district, with the exception of Englefield and Sulham, continued to be supplied with an adequate quantity of mains water, which is drawn from the following sources:—

Bores	Area Served
Bradfield	Bradfield, Yattendon, Frilsham, Bucklebury, Beenham, Stanford Dingley
Woods Farm (Streatley)	Streatley, Basildon, Ashampstead
Pangbourne	Pangbourne, Purley, Theale, Tilehurst
Mortimer	Mortimer, Beech Hill
Grazeley	Burghfield
Ufton Nervet	Ufton Nervet, Sulhamstead

The mains water supply is also supplemented from boreholes outside the Bradfield R.D.C. area. All water was chlorinated before distribution and routine bacteriological and chemical samples were taken regularly from sources, reservoirs and the distribution system by the Thames Valley Water Board. There were no instances of unusual contamination arising during the year.

The number of samples taken by the Water Board from the various bores, reservoirs and on final distribution is tabulated below:—

Source	No. of Samples	Reservoirs & Towers	No. of Samples	Natural Fluoride p.p.m.
Bradfield	50	Great House	2	less than 0.1
		Burnt Hill and	4	
		Tutts Clump Res.	2	
		Frilsham Tower	1	
Pangbourne	75	Tilehurst Tower and Reservoir	7	less than 0.1
Grazeley	77	—	—	1.4
Mortimer	58	—	—	1.2
Ufton Nervet	67	Burghfield Tower	8	1.1
Woods Farm	54	Streatley Reservoir and Tower	5	less than 0.1
Distribution System	103			

No samples of raw water have been taken by the Public Health Department, but a number of routine samples of mains water on final distribution were taken at points throughout the District and each was reported as being of high bacteriological quality.

The following table shows the estimated position in respect of main and other water supplies to houses in each parish in the district:—

Parish	Area in Acres	Houses	Estimated Population 31.12.66	Properties Connected to mains water		Properties not on mains water
				Houses	Estimated Pop	
Aldermaston	3438	510	2315	493	2238	17
Ashampstead	2082	132	411	131	407	1
Basildon	3139	422	1398	417	1381	5
Beech Hill	1136	95	349	94	345	1
Beenham	2068	267	859	247	795	20
Bradfield	4271	433	1463	413	1395	20
Bucklebury	5844	791	2474	688	2152	103
Burghfield	4310	1040	3460	987	3284	53
Englefield	1437	65	207	5	16	60
Frilsham	1078	106	336	103	326	3
Grazeley	519	8	26	8	26	Nil
Padworth	1184	157	514	122	399	35
Pangbourne	1940	877	2828	836	2696	41
Purley	1159	834	2468	821	2430	13
Stanford Dingley	1239	82	273	68	120	14
Stratfield Mortimer	3031	1048	3399	1037	3363	11
Streatley	3655	326	1035	308	978	18
Sulham	723	35	106	2	6	33
Sulhamstead	1993	518	1615	489	1525	29
Sulhamstead Bannister	556	30	113	30	113	Nil
Theale	1619	935	2963	915	2900	20
Tidmarsh	783	96	314	74	242	22
Tilehurst	1548	2760	9191	2759	9188	1
Ufton	2189	74	216	65	190	9
Wokefield	665	29	103	29	103	Nil
Yattendon	1400	94	305	85	276	9
TOTALS	53008	11764	38741	11194	36894	538

A small number of dwellings are still supplied by standpipes but accurate figures are not available.

New mains laid in the district during the year were as follows:—

LOCATION	3" Lin. yds.	4" Lin. yds.	6" Lin. yds.	9" Lin. yds.
Off Clayhill Road, Burghfield, on-site mains, approx. 50% laid	62	736	—	—
The Copse Estate, Purley	—	540	—	—
Hollybush Lane, Burghfield	55	198	—	—
Extn. to Rectory Road, Purley	—	48	—	—
Stanmore, Mortimer West End	115	—	—	—
Adjoining “Yew Lea”, Frilsham	94	—	—	—
Palmers Hill/Ashampstead	—	2313	—	—
Development at Long Lane, Purley	67	97	—	—
“Winchcombe”, off Oxford Road, Purley	72	86	—	—
Flowers Farm Road, Pangbourne	—	390	—	—
Mortimer Lane, Mortimer	—	—	500	—
“Springwood”, Auclum Lane, Burghfield Common	—	271	—	—
Off-site	—	722	—	—
On-site	—	60	—	—
Colins Caravan Site, Beenham	—	73	—	—
St. Mary’s Church, Purley	—	—	69	—
Back Lane to Dark Lane, Tilehurst	—	194	—	—
School Lane, Burghfield	—	—	—	—
Rear of The Stores, Upper Basildon	53	—	—	—

PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

The regular sampling for bacteriological examination of all private supplies serving food premises, industrial premises and Estates within the district was maintained throughout the year.

In addition, water samples were also taken from individual wells serving private houses at the request of the owners or occupiers of the properties concerned.

During the period under review, a total of 191 samples of well water were taken from 34 private supplies and 4 Estate supplies.

Eighteen wells tested gave unsatisfactory results and the owners of the supplies were advised to fit chlorination or filtration units to their supply systems, where it was not possible for connection to be made to a mains water supply.

Results of samples taken from 1 Estate Supply were not entirely satisfactory and following representations from this Department, a Chlorination Plant was installed during the year. Subsequent samples have proved to be satisfactory.

SWIMMING POOLS

Each of the thirteen school swimming pools within the district received several visits during the Summer months and water samples were taken for bacteriological examination.

On each occasion the free chlorine content and pH levels of the pool water were checked with the office testing equipment and advice given on maintaining satisfactory residuals, particularly during heavy bathing loads.

It was a little disturbing to find that a number of operators were not familiar with the basic principles of swimming pool operation and quite a substantial amount of time was spent during these visits advising on the use of the equipment.

It was pleasing to note that the time involved on this particular aspect was well spent, and was reflected in the greatly improved operating techniques being carried out towards the end of the swimming season.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Details of progress on the various schemes is as follows:--

A. Foul Drainage

Scheme	Remarks
Lower Padworth, Aldermaston Wharf New sewer with pumping stations. Disposal to Theale sewage treat- ment works.	Deferred by Ministry after local investigation.
Bucklebury, Hillfoot New sewer and small treatment plant.	Scheme completed.
Beech Hill New sewer.	Scheme completed.
Tilehurst, Overdown Road Relief sewer and drainage of Littleheath Road.	Work is scheduled to commence early in 1970.
Basildon, Wakemans Diversion of sewers and aband- onment of small sewage treatment plant.	Tenders will be received early in 1970.
Stanford Dingley/Rotten Row/ Tutts Clump New sewer and pumping stations.	Scheme is to be submitted to Ministry for approval mid. 1970.

Sulhamstead, Hollybush Lane Extension to sewer.	Details of this Scheme will be ready for submission to the Ministry early in 1970.
Upper Basildon New sewer.	It is anticipated that this Scheme will be submitted for Ministry approval early in 1970.
Frilsham New sewer and enlargement of existing sewage treatment plant.	It is anticipated that this Scheme will be submitted for Ministry approval mid 1970
Theale Sewage Treatment Works Provision of Sludge Treatment Plant.	Tenders are to be obtained early in 1970.
Stratfield Mortimer Sewage Treatment Works Extension to existing works.	Postponed.

B. Surface Water Drainage

Basildon Ashampstead Road	Work is scheduled to commence early in 1970.
Burghfield (Ash Lane)	Work completed.
Purley	Work nearing completion.

2. In addition to the schemes mentioned above of which the Upper Basildon, Frilsham and Stanford Dingley Schemes for provision of main drainage are now most urgently needed to resolve the continuous drainage nuisances arising in these areas, the following areas of the district require main drainage, the present arrangements being unsatisfactory.

The areas listed are not in order of priority.

Parish	Area	Approx. No. of Dwellings.	Remarks
Aldermaston	Red Lane, Reading Road.	26	High Water Table
	Pinelands Caravan Site and possibly properties adjoining the Congregational Chapel situated in Hampshire	42 caravans 20 (Hants.)	
Streatley	Wantage Road	60	Septic tank irrigation difficulties. Could be pumped to existing sewers.
Burghfield	Cunning Man area	42 including Pingewood Road beyond Kennet Cottages	
	Pingewood	17	
Bucklebury	Trash Green area	12 + 4 (Bennets Lane)	Could be connected to sewer via McManus Estate.
	Longrove	17	
	The Alley	34	Possible arrangements with Newbury R.D.C.
	The Slade	28	Clay subsoil. Stream polluted. Small Gardens. Would require separate system.
	Cold Ash Road, The Ridge	41	Possible arrangements with Newbury R.D.C.
	Turners Green	18	Would require separate system.
	The Village	23	

Parish	Area	Approx. No. of Dwellings.	Remarks
Tidmarsh with Sulham	Villages	110	High water table
Purley	Oxford Road	30	Open development. Large gardens. Could either be pumped to Purley sewer or Borough Sewer.
Theale	Wigmore Lane	22	High water table.
Yattendon	Southern part of Village	20	
Theale	Mill Lane, Calcot	12	Clay subsoil. Could be pumped or gravitated to Calcot sewer.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Permanent Sites

Garstons Park (Caravans) Ltd., Tilehurst	222 Caravans
Frank Panter (Sites) Ltd., Ravenswing Caravan Site, Aldermaston	150 Caravans
Pinelands Caravan Site, Aldermaston	42 Caravans
Burghfield Rectory	11 Caravans
Old Mill Farm, Beenham	6 Caravans
Colyton Way, Purley Park Estate	3 Caravans
River Gardens, Purley Park Estate	2 Caravans
Isotope Developments Ltd., Beenham Grange	2 Caravans

There was a total of 54 Site Licences in force during the year, covering 43 individual sites and 9 multiple sites (with 3 or more caravans stationed on them).

The number of caravans on these sites, all controlled by Conditions of Licence, totalled 507.

Other caravans in the district were covered by the exemption clauses contained in the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 and included caravans used to supplement sleeping accommodation from a dwelling, those used by casual labour in seasonal forestry or farming operations, or those used in connection with building or engineering operations.

All licenced sites in the district were inspected during the year, together with several new caravan sites and sites due for re-licencing where relevant conditions were attached to the licence having regard to the circumstances prevailing on that particular site.

A total of 86 visits were made to caravan sites, both licenced and otherwise, during the period under review.

In general, the Travellers Site at Four Houses Corner, Mortimer, continued to operate satisfactorily during the year with no major problems arising.

Individual wash house units were provided to each standing, with electric water heaters over the sinks. With the individual water closets already provided to each plot, each family unit now has its own ablution and sanitary facilities and the communal block which was subjected to so much misuse and abuse was dismantled.

The individual facilities that have been provided are now kept in a spotless condition and although the initial outlay for provision of these facilities has been yet a further expense on this site, I am sure that this will result in considerable saving in a relatively short period, with the absence of the continuous expenditure involved in constantly putting the communal facilities in order.

Planning permission and the lease of the Site to the Council have now been extended for a period of 20 years, till December 1989.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Employees:	4 Drivers	
	11 Loaders	
	1 Man employed on tip control	
	2 Men for Special Collections	
Equipment:	2 – 40/50 cu. yd. Bedford Eagle Crushload	
	2 – 35 cu. yd. Bedford Eagle Crushload	
	1 – 24 cu. yd. Karrier (Reserve)	
	1 – Drott Crawler Tractor	} Tip Control
	1 – 6 ton Bedford Tipper Truck	
	1 – Bedford 10 cwt. van for special collections	

Collection

A weekly collection of refuse from all properties within the district was maintained satisfactorily throughout the year.

Collection is made from inside the gate of properties but a small number of collections still have to be made at the kerbside for those premises having no front gardens.

As in previous years farms and isolated dwellings unable to be reached by the collection vehicles were supplied with quantities of paper sacks and collections were made at suitable pick-up points by arrangement, as and when necessary.

In addition, paper sacks were issued to householders in the district where collection days for the respective parishes fell on Bank Holidays or over the Christmas period.

In addition to the normal weekly collection of household refuse, a certain amount of trade refuse from shops was collected by arrangement on a chargeable basis, and special collections were also made in respect of unwanted household goods, etc. (e.g. old furniture) on request.

DISPOSAL

By controlled tipping at Beenham Pit.

During 1969, an estimated 93,600 cubic yards of refuse were collected and disposed of at the Council's Refuse tip at Webbs Lane, Beenham. This tip has an overall area of approximately 18 acres available for filling and should provide adequate tipping space for several years.

With the continuing change over the last few years throughout the country of the character of household refuse, with the complete shift of emphasis of the weight/volume ratio, reflected in the development of the larger and more powerful compressor vehicles, a far greater volume of refuse than hitherto, with a higher paper and plastic content, is now having to be disposed of.

It is likely that the changing character of refuse will have considerable bearing on future disposal methods.

Problems which may well increase with controlled tipping in future are likely to include the general availability of suitable sites, suitable both from the point of the physical characteristics of the site and the distances involved in transportation, the possible slowing down of the process of fermentation within the tip and increased fire risk.

Centrally placed incineration or pulverisation plants serving several areas may well provide the answer to these problems.

DERELICT VEHICLES

Collection and disposal of derelict vehicles deposited within the district continued as in previous years to be carried out by a private contractor at no cost to the Council.

These arrangements continued to operate satisfactorily.

196 vehicles were collected during 1969.

SEPTIC TANK/CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

The Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following information on the scheme:—

This service which is carried out by private contractor continued in general to operate satisfactorily during the year.

805 tanks were emptied involving 1187 loads.

HOUSING

Number of dwellings built:—

A.	By Local Authority	135
B.	By Private Enterprise	271

Inspection of dwellings during year

A.	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects	577
B.	Number of inspections for this purpose	740

Remedy of defects during the year

1.	Numbers of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action	38
2.	Number of dwellings in which defects were remedied by informal action	25
3.	Number of dwellings rendered fit by statutory action	Nil
4.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
5.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made	2
6.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Undertakings were made	5
7.	Number of dwellings demolished following formal or informal action	4
8.	Number of dwellings closed following formal or informal action	2
9.	Number of dwellings included in Clearance Orders made by the Local Authority	Nil
10.	Number of dwellings included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister	Nil
11.1	Number of dwellings demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders	Nil

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The following grants were authorised during the year:-

Type of Grant	Owner-Occupied Premises	Tenanted Premises	Total
Standard	15	2	17
Discretionary	27	14	41
Totals	42	16	58

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following is a summary of the Annual Report made to the Ministry of Labour.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during year	Total No. of Premises registered at end of year	No. of premises receiving a general inspection during the year	Number of persons employed
Offices	3	55	9	420
Retail Shops	5	95	47	324
Wholesale Departments, and Warehouses	—	2	1	45
Catering Establishments open to the public and Canteens	1	15	8	80
Fuel Storage Depots	—	2	—	12
TOTALS	9	169	65	881
Total Number of Males employed			332	
Total Number of Females employed			549	
Total number of visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to registered premises			103	

All premises in the district which are subject to this legislation had already received a general inspection and the 103 visits made to 65 different premises during the year were mainly routine, or revisits in the case of a small number of premises where minor contraventions had previously been noted and the occupiers requested to have the relevant matters attended to.

It was found that generally, premises were entirely satisfactory and that where any contraventions had arisen, steps were taken almost immediately to have matters put right.

Recourse to formal action was not found necessary.

Infringements found on inspection are tabulated below:—

Insufficient First Aid Equipment	6
Lack of hot water to wash basins	5
Inadequate cleanliness (basically redecoration)	4
Inadequate guarding of machinery	2

Lack of ventilation to sanitary accommodation	1
Unsatisfactory floors, passages or stairs	1
Lack of thermometer	1

One accident was reported during the year and the shop concerned was visited and advice given to the management.

PETROLEUM INSTALLATIONS

Number of installations licensed during 1969	66
Number of installations inspected	35
Number of visits made to these installations	61

In the case of 6 premises inspected, minor contraventions of the Licence Conditions were found. The Licencees were notified either verbally or by letter and asked to rectify them.

During the course of the year, two installations were closed down. Tanks were made safe by steaming and filling with cement slurry and the associated pipelines removed.

Licence conditions for petroleum installations in the district were substantially revised during the year to incorporate features embodied in the Home Office Model Code.

Two important and necessary items now required as a condition of Licence are the annual testing and certification of electrical fittings and equipment, and the periodic testing of tanks and pipelines over a certain age.

In this connection, it has been decided that these tests are to be carried out with inert gas, rather than by the ullage test. The new conditions will come into force in January, 1970.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER

Number of persons licenced	3
Number of inspections of swill boiling plant and equipment	5

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

During the year 6 Licences were issued under the above Act in respect of boarding kennels within the District.

Twenty-one inspections were made and with the exception of one premises which was closed down towards the end of the year, conditions were found to be satisfactory.

The quarantine kennels in the district are to be transferred early in 1970 to new premises within the area. Construction of these kennels was nearing completion at the end of the period covered by this report.

FOOD AND DRUGS

MILK AND DAIRIES

Routine samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination as follows:—

No. of Samples		Tested and found satisfactory		Failed
		Phosphatase	Methylene Blue	Methylene Blue
Untreated	33	—	27	3*
Pasteurised	24	24	15	6*

* A further 3 samples of pasteurised and 3 samples of raw milk submitted to the methylene blue test were declared void owing to high ambient temperatures.

Those samples that failed the methylene blue test were investigated in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, the premises concerned being Dairy Farms. Remedial measures were taken and subsequent samples taken proved satisfactory.

All samples of raw milk were submitted to the Brucella ring test. Each proved negative.

CREAM

During the year 11 samples of cream were purchased for bacteriological examination and of these, a large proportion failed to satisfy the 4 hour Methylene Blue Test.

At the present time there is no legal standard for the bacteriological quality of cream, and this test has no legal significance, but merely can be used as an indicator to the bacteriological activity of its sample.

Though no formal action could be taken, in all cases where the laboratory provisional classification indicated that cream was not of high bacteriological quality, the matter was taken up informally with the producer concerned.

Registration under Milk and Dairies Regulations

During the year, 6 persons were registered as distributors of milk under the above Regulations.

The total number of distributors in the district at the end of the year was 43.

FOOD PREMISES

Food premises in the district are as follows:—

Cafes and Restaurants	19
Licensed Premises and Hotels	45
Works Canteens	14
Clubs	12
School Kitchen and Hostels	22
Butchers	11
Bakers and Confectioners	4
Bakehouses	6
Fishmongers	1
Grocers	62
Greengrocers	9
Confectioners	17
Milk Retailers	11
Others	13
<hr/>	
Total	246

Three hundred and forty-nine visits were made to one hundred and sixty-two of the above premises during the year and standards of hygiene were found to be good in the majority of cases.

The occupiers of forty-six premises inspected were requested either verbally or by letter to carry out various works in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations. No formal action was found necessary.

REGISTRATION UNDER SECTION 16 FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Number of premises that were registered during the year for:—

A.	Storage and sale of ice cream	7
B.	Manufacture or preparation of sausages or preserved food	2

The total number of registered premises in the district was as follows:—

A.	For storage and sale of ice-cream	101
B.	For the manufacture or preparation of sausages or preserved food	33

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER OF FOODS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

The following food was voluntarily surrendered by food traders in the district and condemnation certificates issued:—

72 lb. of fresh meat at retail shops
20 lb. of canned meats
10 lb. of fish

The contents of seven frozen food cabinets following breakdown of refrigeration units.

POULTRY INSPECTION

Number of poultry processing premises within the district	2
Number of visits to these premises	66
Total number of birds processed during the year	107,840
Types of birds processed:—	
Hens	97.57%
Roasting Chicken	1.91%
Turkeys	0.52%
Percentage of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	0.55%
Weight of birds rejected as unfit for human consumption	2,364 lbs.

During the year the second processing station, that producing food by the Moslem method, became fully operational and accounted for some 24% of the poultry slaughtered within the district. As before, the older established station continued to produce “New York Dressed” birds (plucked but not eviscerated) whilst the greater majority of the birds from the newer station are eviscerated and skinned. In both premises the owners carry out their own inspection system and contact the local authority in the case of doubtful birds.

Inspection of either type of bird presents its own difficulties. In the case of the New York Dressed birds, where cutting for inspection would impair the keeping quality, inspection is visual and by means of palpation only. The liver and other organs which would enable disease to be diagnosed are frequently removed in the eviscerated bird and the removal of the skin makes judgement difficult. It is hard to see how inspection could be improved short of the appointment of Local Authority Officers who would be present at such premises during the whole of the time that slaughtering is carried out. As in previous years the bulk of the carcasses rejected were for parasitic conditions, tumours, oedema and emaciation.

The older established processing station, which was built specifically for the purpose, is so constructed as to facilitate production under satisfactory conditions of hygiene.

In the case of the second station, the adaption of premises has produced something that is not ideal.

While considerable work has been carried out during the year and the premises substantially improved, the occupier is currently being pressed to carry out further works of improvement.

RODENT CONTROL

Number of complaints received	276
1. Number of different domestic premises visited	1,419
Total number of inspections made	2,812
Total number of treatments to domestic premises	333
2. Number of different business premises visited	289
Total number of inspections made	1,109
Total number of treatments to business premises	150
3. Number of different Local Authority premises visited	21
Total number of inspections made	320
Total number of treatments to L.A. premises	70

4.	Number of different agricultural premises visited	110
	Total number of inspections made	966
	Total number of treatments to agricultural premises	194

Number of Contracts:

A.	Private Dwellings	80
B.	Business premises	76
C.	Agricultural premises	64

Value of Contracts: £1,617

Staff: Rodent Officer. 2 Rodent Operators

During the year difficulties were encountered in bringing under control an infestation of rats at a smallholding within the district.

Treatment with anti-coagulant poisons over a period proved to be entirely ineffectual, the poison was being taken but there was no apparent decrease in the number of rats nor were there any bodies found despite the substantial amount of bait consumed.

Although resistance had not to my knowledge been experienced in this part of the country before and certainly never before in this District, it appeared that Warfarin resistance had arrived.

The Ministry of Agriculture were notified of the difficulties that had arisen over this particular premises and that the infestation appeared entirely resistant to anti-coagulant poisons.

The Ministry immediately took over the operation to determine whether in fact resistance was present and to clear the premises of rats if possible.

A cage trapping operation was first carried out with the result that 28 live rats were caught. These were sent to Infestation Control Headquarters for further investigation. Following this, anti-coagulant poison treatment was commenced with 94 baits being laid. Complete and partial takes were recorded over a period but at no time were any bodies found.

Although confirmation of Warfarin resistance had, at that time, not been received, it was apparent that anti-coagulant poisons were not having the desired effect. Traditional type poisons were then reverted to, zinc phosphide immediately produced results, and treatment using arsenic completed the operation.

A final inspection in January 1970 showed that the site was free of rats. Subsequent reports from the Ministry on the live rats examined showed that they were in fact Warfarin resistant.

During the whole of the period when the premises were under treatment, intensive surveys of the surrounding area within a wide radius of the smallholding were carried out by the Council's rodent control staff and no similar infestations were found nor were any difficulties experienced in the use of Warfarin either in this particular area or anywhere else in the District.

It appeared that the resistance encountered at the single premises was an isolated incident but how or why this should have occurred remains a mystery.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

	Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	No. of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1.	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	NIL	NIL	NIL
2.	Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	82	37	2	NIL
3.	Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).	7	7	NIL	NIL
	TOTAL	90	44	2	NIL

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Notified		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	6	—	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork:

Number of outworkers in list required by Section 133(1)(c)

Making of wearing apparel: 4

HUNGERFORD RURAL DISTRICT

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

WATER SUPPLIES

The table showing the estimated position with regard to Public Mains and Other Water Supplies

Parish	Houses	Estimated Population June 1969	Public Mains Water	Private mains or wells
Combe and West Woodhay	59	185	57	2
East Garston	169	560	138	31
East and West Shefford	219	595	189	30
Hungerford	1,172	3,760	1,151	21
Inkpen	284	750	226	58
Kintbury	739	2,040	576	163
Lambourn	973	2,760	950	23
TOTALS	3,615	10,650	3,287	328

Samples were taken as below:—

Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Samples taken from Public Supplies	1	1
Samples taken from Private Supplies	2	—

SEPTIC TANK SCHEME

The scheme operated by the Council continues to be useful to many ratepayers. However, there must still be some members of the public who are unaware of the scheme, although it has been widely advertised.

Each year requests for this service increase, and since the scheme commenced in 1966 the requests for service have increased some 100%.

As from April 1969 the subsidy was increased from 22/6 to 30s. thus providing some additional benefit to those ratepayers who have no main sewer available.

The table shows work carried out and subsidies paid from 1st January to 31st December 1969.

Parish	Dwellings for which service was requested					Dwellings on which no subsidy can be paid
	Dwellings on which subsidy was paid	Subsidy £ s. d			Dwellings requiring second service	
Combe and West Woodhay	—		—		1	—
East Garston	2	2	5	0	1	2
East and West Shefford (incl. Shefford Woodlands)	9	13	2	6	—	2
Hungerford	17	23	5	0	1	2
Inkpen	42	57	19	0	7	—
Kintbury	9	12	7	6	—	2
Lambourn (incl. Eastbury, Woodland St. Mary, Upper Lambourn and Lambourn Woodlands)	21	31	2	6	1	3
TOTAL	100	140	1	6	11	11

HOUSING

Number of dwellings built

A.	by local authority	16
B.	by private enterprise	84

Remedy of defects during year

1.	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action:	13
2.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made:	6
3.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Undertakings were made:	4
4.	Number of dwellings in respect of which Closing Orders were made:	2
5.	Number of dwellings demolished following formal or informal action:	11
6.	Number of dwellinghouses included in Clearance Orders made by the local authority:	NIL
7.	Number of dwellings included in Clearance Orders confirmed by the Minister:	NIL
8.	Number of dwellings demolished in pursuance of Clearance Orders:	NIL

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

As the majority of suitable dwellings have now been improved, very little use was made of Improvement Grants. On 25th August the new Housing Act 1969 came into operation and since then only two Standard Grants have been received and approved.

A considerable number of enquiries have been received in respect of owner/occupied dwellings in need of repairs in addition to the required improvements, but it is felt that some considerable discussion is likely to arise from the differentiation of normal repairs and those which may be associated with the works of improvement. This does, no doubt, mean that the specification of repairs must be priced so that the estimate of approved repairs can be added to the estimated cost of improvements.

The following grants were authorised during the year:—

	Owner/Occupied Premises	Tenanted Premises	Total
Standard	3	5	8
Discretionary	1	1	2
Improvement Grants which were paid during the year:—			
Standard	5	2	7
Discretionary	1	—	1

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

Work was commenced during the year, on the private site at Lambourn. The sewer and site works were well in hand and it is expected that the first dwellings will be occupied early in the new year. It would appear that when all the works are completed and the dwellings in position, the whole development could be very satisfactory and a seemingly essential part of the housing accommodation in the Lambourn area.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Milk and Dairies

Routine sampling of milk for bacteriological examination was carried out and is set out below:—

	No. of Samples	Tested and found satisfactory			Unsatis- factory
		Methylene Blue Test	Phosphatase Test	Turbidity Test	
T.T. Past (C.I.)	4	3 1 Void	4	N/A	—
T.T. Past	3	3	3	—	—
Pasteurised	7	6 1 Void	7	N/A	—
Sterilised	1	N/A	N/A	1	—
Raw T.T. (C.I.)	1	1	N/A	N/A	—
T.T. Past Hom.	1	1 1 Void	1	N/A	—

Sale of Food

No. of Food Premises in the district

Cafes and Restaurants	2
Licensed Premises and Hotels	31
Hostels	1
Works Canteens	2
School Kitchens	5
Butchers	7
Fishfriers and Mongers	5
Grocers	22
Greengrocers	4
Bakehouses	1
Confectioners	14
Milk Retailers	6
Baker and Confectioners	7
Clubs	4
Others	9

Unfit Food

Poultry	464 lbs.
Lamb	188 lbs.
(breakdown of freezer and damage to food)	

Ice-cream

No applications for registration were received during 1969.

No. of Samples	Provisions Grade I, II, III, IV
21	12, 9, —, —

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Collection

The service for the collection of bulky refuse or furniture once a month, was continued throughout 1969 but very limited use was made of the scheme by the ratepayers. Despite attempts to publicise this service, it does not seem to be very widely appreciated. Further advertising will be necessary before the ratepayers realize that the Local Authority will collect all their unwanted rubbish or household items, or are prepared to receive them at the refuse tips.

The daily bulk of normal refuse is, without doubt, increasing and it will very shortly become essential for the Council to consider what action is necessary to cope with this increased amount. During the latter part of the year, November and December, considerable difficulty was experienced in trying to collect the daily refuse without overlapping to the next day, this could not always be done and it was found necessary to alter the scheme to allow for this, in fact, reducing the time available for salvage and maintenance, the drivers had to work overtime to carryout the appropriate maintenance of the vehicles, a very essential and regular routine.

A bin liner trial scheme was started at East Garston on eight dwellings and reports from this trial are awaited during 1970, although it is believed to be operating satisfactorily.

A bin liner scheme has been approved for 60 dwelling which are being erected in Priory Road, Hungerford, and will be completed during the summer of 1970. A second scheme will be put into operation in Lambourn in the 18 dwellings to be built. The type of container has been agreed but the intention is to try paper and polythene liners before a firm decision is reached on which liners should be used.

At this point it should be mentioned that the Council considered introducing a "sack" collection scheme in part of the district as a first phase and then extending the scheme to cover the whole district but for reasons of economy these items were removed from the estimates.

But I would suggest that such matters cannot and should not be "shelved" continually for reasons of economy. These changes must surely come, before or at the same time as the cessation of the "kerbside" collections. Too often, the word "refuse" is one that should not be used, but these waste materials, whatever they are called, must be collected regularly and disposed of in a satisfactory manner. This means that the ratepayers must be prepared to pay for the service, the best that can be provided.

Disposal

The refuse tip at Kintbury Cross Roads has rapidly filled and in the near future will soon have to be levelled and handed back for farming purposes, and this will mean that some 5 acres will then have been handed back to the farmer.

Preparation work on a new site at Dark Lane, Hungerford, was carried out during the year and it is now ready for use.

The tip at Hilldrop, Lambourn Woodlands will be invaluable but has a severe disadvantage, as it is impracticable to use the tip on wet days. The access is over two fields, and the heavy vehicles would need a firm track, which is not allowed, this severely limits the use of the tip.

Although all the possible sites in the district are well known, continual action must be taken in an endeavour to obtain a new site to replace the site at Kintbury which is near the end of its useful life.

The availability of covering soil or suitable material is always a problem. Full advantage is always taken when contractors offer covering material for disposal, particularly top soil for completion of surface. If it is not required at the time, it is stockpiled at one of the sites for future use.

Derelict Vehicles

Only a few cars were dumped in our District throughout the year and these were either removed by scrap dealers or taken to the Council tip by their owners.

LITTER

A further litter basket was erected on Hungerford Common during 1969. Four additional litter bins were situated on the Recreation Ground at Hungerford and those are under the control of Hungerford Parish Council.

In general, the litter bins do not seem to attract vandals and in only one case was a litter basket disturbed, that being at Combe when the ancient Gibbet was damaged.

RODENT CONTROL

The table below is a copy of the annual return sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
Properties other than sewers		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in district	3997	362
2.	a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	206	14
	b) Number infested by (i) Rats	178	9
	(ii) Mice	11	1
3.	a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	18	126
	b) Number infested by (i) Rats	16	126
	(ii) Mice	2	—
4.	No sewers were infested by rats during the year.		

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT

Only one licence was issued during the year under the above Act. This being in respect of cats.

PETROLEUM

Total number of premises licenced at end of year	62
No. of visits made to licenced premises (including detailed inspections)	33

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

The following is a copy of the Annual Report made to the Minister of Labour.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises registered during year	Total No. of Premises registered at end of year	No. of premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	—	15	—
Retail Shops	—	30	—
Wholesale Shops and warehouses	—	—	—
Catering	—	2	—
Fuel	—	1	—
TOTAL	—	48	—

Total number of Males employed	75
Total number of Females employed	113
Total number of visits of all kinds to registered premises	26

No applications for Registration were received during 1969 and no accidents were reported.

As a result of considerable work with refuse collection and a housing survey, it was not possible to allocate very much time to general inspections and only a few routine visits were made.

No summary of defects can be made, but it is felt that only minor infringements would be found, as the more important defects were dealt with last year when thorough inspections were made.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Prosecutions (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	2	NIL	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	41	19	NIL	NIL
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).			—	—
TOTAL	44	21	NIL	NIL

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found		Notified		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
		Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective			—	1	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL			—	1	—	—

NEWBURY RURAL DISTRICT

Report of Chief Public Health Inspector

In previous Annual Reports it has been my practice to give the bare facts with short comments on each section. The same form is followed this year but as an introduction I am including some general comments. From my standpoint it is an appropriate time to take a hard look at the public health services in the District as this year I complete 20 years service with my Council.

The emphasis on the provision of services has changed during the post war period, in the forties and fifties the provision of main water supply received more attention than the provision of sewerage schemes, certainly progress was made in respect of both services but whereas a mains water supply was provided in each Parish the provision of new sewers was restricted to Thatcham and the parishes adjoining Newbury.

During the sixties the emphasis has been on the provision of sewers to all the larger villages, the five year programme now approved should result in the provision of main sewers to all but groups of scattered houses. All the sewerage schemes are designed and supervised by the Engineer to the Council, Mr. J.H.C. Turner. Particulars of the five year programme are given later in the Report.

The position regarding refuse collection has improved over the years. Soon after the War a weekly scheme of collection was introduced for the whole district, collection was from the kerbside and side loading vehicles were in operation. Recently my Council has been one of the leading authorities in the Country in the introduction of a paper sack collection system based on work study surveys. During 1969 the second stage of the re-organisation to paper sacks was carried out and now all the district have the benefit of a back door collection system. It is planned to complete the re-organisation in 1970 when the back door bin collection in Thatcham will be converted to the paper sack system. The main advantages of paper sack collections are that a new refuse container is supplied each week, collection is dustless, labour is saved as there is no bin to return to the back door, and last but not least collection of refuse is no longer an unpleasant task.

The Council employ a fleet of four rear loading vehicles, during collection a ram is continuously feeding refuse from the loading hopper into the main body and at the same time reducing the bulk two and a half times. This type of vehicle is essential to deal with the bulky refuse now being produced, research into domestic refuse has shown that the bulk of refuse is increasing by 10% per year and that this trend may continue for at least 20 years.

During 1969 plans were laid for the construction of a Works Depot in Thatcham which will house all the vehicles used by the Council, the Depot will include better facilities for the men including showers and individual lockers.

The present position regarding water supplies, sewerage and refuse collection can be said to be encouraging and on completion of present plans and programmes they will be very satisfactory.

Newbury Rural District has been a prosperous area during these last 20 years with low unemployment, this prosperity together with its geographical position has led to a continuous demand for new houses and improvements to existing houses. Many of the older properties have been purchased for owner

occupation. Less than 400 houses in the District are without bathrooms, this represents 5% of the total and is well below the National average. There is no slum clearance problem though there are still some 30 dwellings which are unfit and not repairable at reasonable expense. These dwellings are being dealt with gradually by rehousing tenants, others as they become vacant are not allowed to be occupied again. The majority of these houses are occupied by elderly persons.

It is proposed in 1970 to make a survey of all the houses without bathrooms and to endeavour to persuade owners to bring the dwellings up to date with the aid of the generous improvement grants now available. Where persuasion fails the Council will no doubt consider each case on its merits, and decide whether it is practical and desirable to enforce the improvement of the property.

All Council houses are equipped with bathrooms and plans were approved during the year for carrying out works to the remaining 13 Council houses without indoor W.C.s to provide this amenity.

Statutory overcrowding is not a real problem and is confined to a few isolated cases which are given priority when Council houses are available for letting.

Under occupation of houses is more of a problem and the Council hopes that better use may be made of the existing stock of Council houses and private houses by encouraging tenants to move into smaller houses. A contract was signed during the year for the erection of 47 small dwellings on eleven sites which will in the main be let to elderly persons occupying family houses. A scheme is in preparation for the erection of 20 flatlets for old persons at Thatcham together with Warden accommodation. It is anticipated that this scheme will be completed early in 1971.

No Council houses were completed in 1969 and the Housing waiting list has been steadily increasing and reached 670 by the end of the year. This figure includes approx. 70 priority cases and it is estimated that half the applicants are in need of consideration. Many applicants are newly married couples living with relations or in rooms.

Hygiene in shops and other food premises has been improving over the years and is now generally satisfactory, but it is recognised that more routine visits are desirable.

The Slaughterhouse in Thatcham re-opened late in the year, and the staffing of my Department will be reviewed in 1970. I am looking for an improved staffing position which will allow for generally carrying out more routine visits to premises.

WATER SUPPLIES

The following table shows the position in the various parishes.

Parish	Population	Number of Houses	Houses without mains water
Boxford	537	167	13
Brimpton and Wasing	623	183	7
Chieveley	2098	526	27
Cold Ash	2179	560	2
Enborne	561	166	3
Greenham	1000	250	4
Hamstead Marshall	188	74	9
Hermitage	865	281	1
Leckhampstead	401	132	—
Midgham	383	111	11
Shaw-cum-Donnington	2200	714	9
Speen	1767	585	47
Thatcham	9775	3087	47
Welford	670	209	4
Winterbourne	201	72	10
Woolhampton	837	206	1
	24,285	7,303	195

Seven samples of water were taken during the year from private wells and bores and one was found to be unsatisfactory. This house has since been provided with mains water.

FOOD SUPPLIES

The following table shows the number of food premises in the area which are subject to the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Grocers	41
Bakers and Confectioners (including 4 bakeries)	7
Butchers	9
Greengrocers	5
Sugar Confectioners	9
Fishmongers	2
Fried Fish Shop	1
Public Houses and Hotels	45
Other caterers and canteens	9
Sausage and Pie manufacturer	1
	129

Seven premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages and sixty are licenced for the sale of pre-wrapped ice-cream.

In November the slaughterhouse at Pound Lane re-opened under new ownership after being closed for two and a half years. The new owners have carried out several alterations and installed new equipment capable of handling a large throughput of pigs. During November and December 4,851 pigs were slaughtered all of which were inspected. Sixteen cwts. of meat were found to be unfit for food and condemned.

Legal proceedings were taken against a Thatcham confectioner during December for selling mouldy food on two separate occasions. Fines totalling £10.0.0d. for these offences were imposed by the Newbury Magistrates.

HOUSING

1.	Number of dwellings built:	
	(a) By Local Authority	Nil
	(b) By private persons	186
2.	Number of dwellings found to be unfit for habitation and not repairable at reasonable cost	Nil
3.	Number of dwellings found to be unfit but capable of repair at reasonable cost	30
4.	Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence informal action	11
5.	Number of dwellings rendered fit by statutory action	Nil
6.	Number of dwellings in respect of which demolition orders were made	Nil
7.	Number of dwellings demolished in pursuant of demolition orders	Nil
8.	Number of dwellings included in clearance orders	Nil
9.	Numbers of dwellings demolished in pursuant to clearance orders.	Nil

Grants for Improvement to Private Houses

Discretionary Grants	(14)	6
Standard Grants	(11)	5

Note: Figures in brackets refer to 1968.

The new Housing Act became law in August, it revised and improved the Discretionary and Standard grant schemes and the maximum grants available are now £1,000 and £450 respectively.

Because of advance publicity property owners were made aware of the coming changes and were reluctant to carry out improvements under the old scheme. Towards the end of the year interest in the new grants increased and it is hoped that this will be reflected in next years figures.

Works of improvement to twenty Council houses at Thatcham were completed during the year, and work to the last thirteen without internal sanitation was commenced. These works will be completed during 1970.

During the year the Parish of Hermitage was transferred from Wantage R.D. to Newbury R.D. and a survey of some 280 houses revealed most to be in good condition and only 16 without bathrooms.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT

The following is an extract of the Annual Report made to the Ministry of Labour.

Class of Premises	Premises Registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises	General Inspections during the year	Persons Employed
Offices	—	26	19	86
Retail Shops	—	43	31	133
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	—	3	2	30
Catering establishments open to the public and canteens	—	14	12	47
Fuel Storage depots	—	1	1	11
	—	87	65	307
Total number of Males employed			151	
Total number of Females employed			156	

During the year 87 general inspections were made and a number of minor contraventions were found. Owners were notified by letter and the contraventions were dealt with.

PETROLEUM INSTALLATIONS

At the end of the year, 71 premises were licenced for the storage of petroleum spirit. Visits were made to all of them and because of new Home Office requirements, it is expected one licence will not apply for renewal of licence for 1970. In one other case which cannot comply a compromise will be sought since the installation may be moved when the redevelopment of Thatcham centre takes place.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS

Six premises were registered for the boarding of cats and dogs and each one was inspected prior to licencing. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

CARAVAN SITES

The following table shows the number of licenced caravans as at 31st December.

(a)	Individual	9
(b)	Multiple (more than 3 on one site)	9
	Total number of caravans	255

Minor contraventions were noted on one site, but these were dealt with by the owners after notification by letter.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year sewerage and sewage treatment schemes for Chieveley/Hermitage/Curridge and for Leckhampstead were completed. A scheme to serve the Pyle Hill, Stroud Green and Hambridge Road areas was commenced in June.

A five year programme was drawn up during the year which included schemes for Hamstead Marshall, Boxford and Brimpton and extensions to existing schemes. On completion of the programme sewers will be available to the majority of houses in the district. The sparsely populated areas will continue to be served by cesspools or septic tanks.

During the year the scheme for emptying cesspools and septic tanks remained in force. Orders for emptying are dealt with by the Council, a private firm is under contract to the Council for the emptying of the tanks. The cost of emptying is partly met from the Rate Fund.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

During the year Stage 2 of the paper sack collection scheme came into operation. All properties now have a back door collection scheme. Bins are used for storage of refuse in Thatcham and it is planned to convert to paper sack system in 1970 which will complete the re-organisation of the refuse collections in the District.

The rear loading compression type refuse collection vehicles are in use throughout the district.

Disposal of refuse continues to be carried out jointly with Newbury Borough at Lower Way, Thatcham refuse tip.

RODENT CONTROL

Treatment is carried out under the joint scheme with Newbury Borough and Hungerford R.D.C. and the following table is a copy of the annual return sent to the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.			
		Type of Property	
Properties other than sewers		Non-Agricultural	Agricultural
1.	Number of properties in district	7,846	385
2.	a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	371	4
	b) Number infested by (i) Rats	306	2
	(ii) Mice	32	—
3.	a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	5	110
	b) Number infested by (i) Rats	5	110
	(ii) Mice	—	—
Sewers			
4.	Sewers infested by rats during the year	None	

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The following table is a copy of the prescribed particulars furnished to the Department of Employment and Productivity.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number of Register Inspections (2)	(3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	2	Nil	Nil
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	81	12	Nil	Nil
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	88	14	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork: Number of outworkers in list required by Section 133 (1) (c)

Making of wearing apparel: 1

